T/502/22/2/2

HIROSHIMA DAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1961

It is hoped that wherever possible Groups will ask Ministers in their area to offer the following prayers on the anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Today in many lands people are gathering to remember those who died from the first Atomic Bomb, to pray for those who were bereaved, and to resolve that there shall be no more war. Let us join with them in prayer.

THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God for all the benefits that have come to our nation from Jesus Christ and His Church, in bringing the Gospel to these shores, in inspriing men to seek what is good and beautiful and true, to labour against ignorance, oppression and disease, to establish just laws and good government, to share the benefits of Christ with other people, and to hand on to us a goodly heritage.

Let us Pray

(Then shall be offered a short extempore prayer of thanksgiving.)

CONFESSION

Let us listen, to the Summary of the Law, as our Saviour has given it in the Gospel.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all they heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, namely this: thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Let us confess our sins before Almighty God and accept His offer of forgiveness and renewal through the Holy Spirit.

We confess before thee, O Lord, that we have sinned and done evil in Thy sight and are no more worthy to be called Thy sons. Forgive us those things wherein we have sinned against Thee, our sloth, self-will, our neglect of Thee, our lack of confidence in the way Thou hast shown to the world, our smallness of vision and lack of courage, our selfish carelessness of thought and life; our prejudice, our contempt, our failure to learn true fellowshuo. Help us to overcome these and all other faults and restore ys by Thy forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

DEDICATION

Our Father, who art the Father of all mankind. Thou knowest our thoughts and our hearts are open before Thee. We commend to Thee the people of Japan, young and old and especially those who are suffering as a result of war. Help us to realise that the horror of war and the suffering of mankind come from our neglect of Thy Will. Rouse us from our apathy, and give to us a cision of Thy purpose for the Brotherhood of all. Give us confidence, energy and the moral courage of our convictions; above all, a determination to fight against selfishness and indifference to the needs of others, that we may be united in a true and lasting peace, and that Thy will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost rest and abide with us all, now and for ever more. Amen.